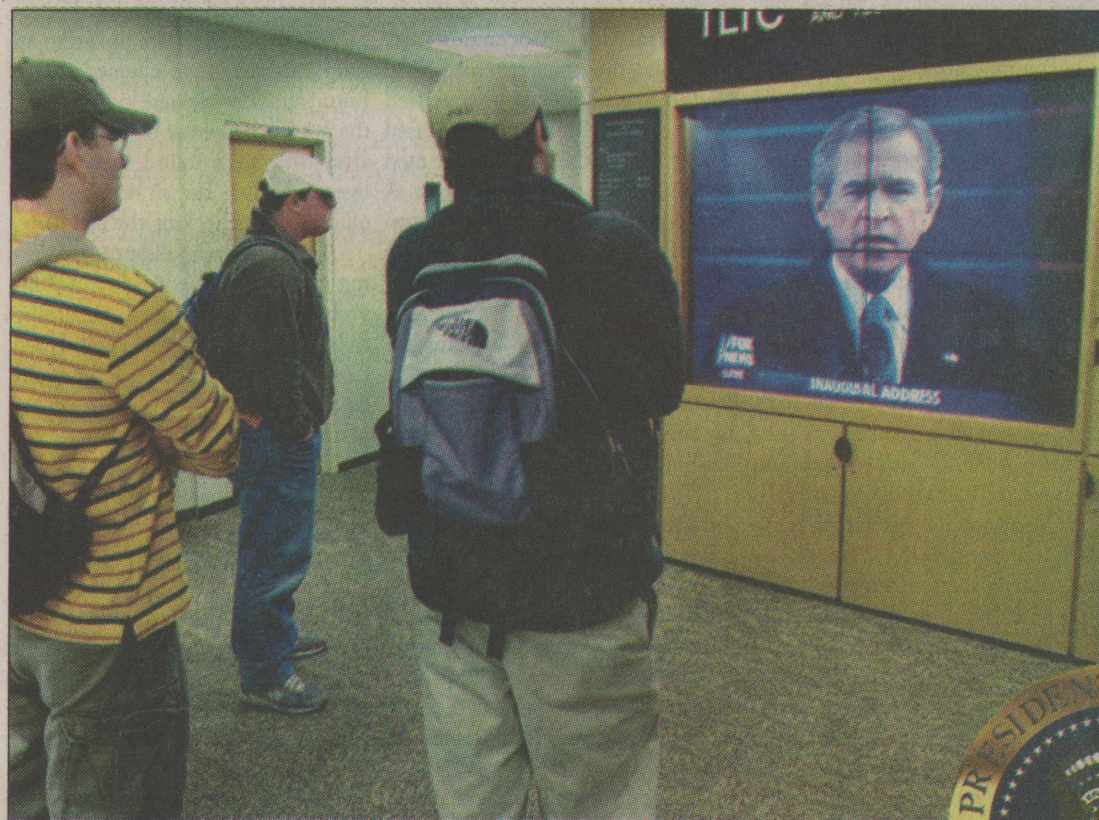


President Bush sworn in for second term



Tech community reacts to inauguration

By Brandi Fleming/The University Daily

George W. Bush's second inauguration took place Thursday at noon — a time and date set by the 20th Amendment of the Constitution.

Cate Lock, a junior communication studies major from Lubbock, said she is a strong Bush supporter and comes from a strongly Republican family.

Lock said she was looking forward to watching Bush take the presidential oath for a second time.

"I am so excited about the inauguration," she said. "My parents are there right now in Washington."

The tradition and the history behind the presidential inauguration are the best things about the ceremony, Lock said.

According to the U.S. Department of State Web site, much has been added to the inaugural ceremonies throughout the years, but the central concepts have not changed.

Bush swore the 35-word oath written in Article II, Section 1, of the Constitution before beginning his next four-year term.

Amanda Allen, a freshman math major from Dallas, said she voted for Bush and was excited about his inauguration.

"He had too much going on to be cut off in the middle of his plans," she said. "I really wish I could be there in person for the inauguration."

Teresa Smith, a junior international business major from Montgomery, said she voted for Bush because she agreed with more of his views than with Democratic candidate John Kerry's.

However, Smith said she was not interested in watching Bush's second inauguration.

"I don't think the inauguration is that big of a deal this time because Bush is an incumbent," she said. "I probably will not even watch it."

REACTIONS continued on page 5



TOP LEFT: TEXAS Tech students stop to watch the inauguration of President George W. Bush in the entrance of the TLTC Center in the library (ANDREW WEATHERL/The University Daily). TOP RIGHT: PROTESTORS yell as Bush's Inaugural Parade passes along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., Thursday (AP PHOTO). ABOVE: U.S. SENATOR Trent Lott gives a toast as President Bush and First Lady, Laura, stand during a post-inaugural celebration in Washington, D.C., Thursday (AP PHOTO).

Lubbock shares ties with, feelings for Bush

By Brittany Barrientos/The University Daily

George W. Bush was inaugurated in the 55th inaugural ceremony on Thursday. The inauguration was the most expensive and highly secured in history, according to an Associated Press story.

After the rollercoaster ride that was the 2004 election, many people around the Texas Tech campus said they are ready to give Bush his 100 days.

The 100-day period is the customary amount of time the incoming president is given to prove himself before being criticized. The common courtesy rule was put into effect after Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his first inaugural speech proclaiming, "There is nothing to fear, but fear itself," and turning around the country that just had suffered the Great Depression. He did this in 100 days.

Matt Eshbaugh-Soha, a visiting political science professor, said he believes Bush has an opportunity to unite the country. The key question is whether he will be successful at doing so.

"(He) is not coming in with an overwhelming consensus," he said.

"He has an opportunity to sway (people) and compromise."

Eshbaugh-Soha said although he believes Bush can be successful with some of his policies, success will depend on if his policies deal with the problems facing America.

Some of the big issues that lie ahead of Bush are Social Security reforms, judicial appointments and the war on terror.

Joe Biles, president of the Tech College Republicans, said he was in Washington, D.C., for the inauguration and is thrilled about Bush's re-election.

"I am thrilled, obviously," Biles, a senior history major from Mineral Wells, said. "He still has a lot left to do."

Biles said he understands how much money is being spent on the

INAUGURATION continued on page 5

ABSTRACT ABILITY



DAVID JOHNSON/The University Daily

JOEL KISER, A senior studio art painting and metals major from Levelland, paints "Oilfield plate No. 1 and No. 2," a narrative abstract expressionism piece for his experimental painting class, north of the Art building Thursday afternoon.

Marijuana use still a problem at Tech

By Katherine Amerson/The University Daily

Although some Texas Tech students living in Weymouth Residence Hall do not believe marijuana is a problem in the building, reports from the Texas Tech Police Department shine a different light on the issue.

According to a police report, marijuana and drug paraphernalia were seized Jan. 15 in room 508 of Weymouth.

Maj. Gordon Hoffman of the Tech Police Department said the event happened at approximately 9:30 p.m. when officers were patrolling the building.

No one was arrested because no one was in the room, Hoffman said, and the incident has

not yet been filed with the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office.

"We've had pretty good luck getting (charges) filed," he said. "It could be a problem if it's not a single occupancy room. Generally, we don't have too much problem prosecuting it."

According to the police report, three police officers were on foot patrol when two community advisers who said they smelled burning marijuana on the fifth floor approached them.

The community advisers gave the officers a key to room 508, according to the report, because no one answered the door when the officers knocked.

A colored glass pipe with marijuana residue

inside, 0.2 ounces of marijuana and rolling papers were found in the room, according to the police report.

Hoffman said possession of marijuana carries a slightly higher fine than does possession of alcohol. Not one residence hall in particular has more of a problem with students possessing marijuana, he said.

"(Marijuana in the residence halls) is a concern of course," he said, "but so is alcohol."

According to www.norml.org, possession of 2 ounces or less of marijuana is a misdemeanor, and the punishment for the

MARIJUANA continued on page 5

Counseling center helping students affected by tsunami

By Kelly Gooch/The University Daily

Donating money is not the only way to help aid students affected by the tsunami. The Student Counseling Center at Texas Tech has offered to help any student, international or local, deal with grief or concern regarding the tsunami.

Stacey Moore, counseling psychologist at Tech, said no students have come into the counseling center yet, but said she has heard of one professor who had good friends lose their entire families in the recent disaster.

After no one had come to the counseling center after the tsunami, Moore said counselors at the Student Counseling Center began to get apprehensive.

"We were concerned about sitting back and waiting for people

to come to us," she said.

Moore stressed that grief counseling associated with the tsunami is not only for international students. She said counselors also give Americans support if they are worried about a disaster of that nature happening where they live.

Moore also said once the counseling center knows more about the number of international students who were affected by the tsunami and exactly where they are from, support groups at the Tech Student Counseling Center will begin.

The counseling center deals with many other issues as well besides students affected by tsunamis, Moore said.

"For students, we are the university's mental health resource," she said.

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Weather

Today	Tomorrow
PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY
High 72 / Low 37	High 52 / Low 19

Wall Street at a Glance

Dow Jones Industrials	NYSE: 7010.47 -48.80
Close: 10,471.47	Nasdaq Composite:
Change: -68.50	2045.88 -27.71
Standard & Poors 500:	American Stock Exchange:
1175.41 -9.22	1405.76 -9.66

Beer keg registration proposed

AUSTIN (AP) — Texans purchasing beer kegs would be required to register with the state, swearing they are 21 years old and promising not to serve minors, under a new bill filed this week in the Texas House.

Retailers on Wednesday criticized the bill, contending the burden of the proposed registration program and its bookkeeping would fall on them.

However, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, which would administer the registration, supports the measure, said Roy Hale, program specialist for the commission's enforcement division.

Rep. Rob Eissler filed the bill, one of three designed to reduce underage drinking.

Eissler, R-The Woodlands, supported the legislation at the urging of a constituent. Susan Wagener's son died of acute alcohol poisoning in 1999 on the campus of Texas A&M University.

A third measure would limit curbing birthday binge drinking at that has led to deaths like those of Michael Wagener, would punish vendors who sell alcohol to people during the early morning hours of their 21st birthdays.

A third measure would limit the amount of alcohol served in any one drink by licensed retailers to a half-ounce of pure alcohol or the equivalent. According to results of a police investigation into Wagener's death, he had been served eight or nine 4-ounce shots of liquor in 30 to 45 minutes, roughly the amount of a one-liter bottle of liquor.

"The point of the legislation is directed at underage drinking," said Eissler.

Retailers contend the proposed registration requirements are largely redundant because some businesses already register kegs voluntarily.

Hale, however, said 23 other states and the District of Columbia require buyers of kegs to register.

An estimated 60,000 or more kegs of beer sold annually in the state might come under the registration proposal, according to Texans Standing Tall, an Austin nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing underage alcohol use.

Cancer deaths surpass heart disease

(AP) — For the first time, cancer has surpassed heart disease as the top killer of Americans under 85, health officials said Wednesday. The good news is that deaths from both are falling, but improvement has been more dramatic for heart disease.

"It's dropping fast enough that another disease is eclipsing it," said Dr. Walter Tsou, president of the American Cancer Society.

The single biggest reason: fewer smokers.

The news is contained in the American Cancer Society's annual statistical report, released Wednesday. In 2002, the most recent year for which information is available, 476,009 Americans under 85 died of cancer compared with 450,637 who died of heart disease.

That trend actually began in 1999, but "this is the first time we've looked at this by age," said Ahmedin Jemal,

a cancer society epidemiologist and main author of the report.

Those under 85 compose 98.4 percent of the population, said Dr. Eric Feuer, chief of statistical research for the National Cancer Institute, who also worked on the report.

That means that only the very oldest Americans die of heart disease more than cancer, a trend that is expected to reverse by 2018, said Dr. Harmon Eyre, the cancer society's longtime chief medical officer.

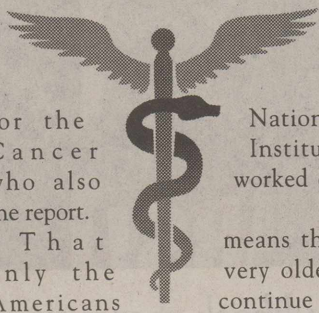
"This is a situation in which neither one of us wants to be No. 1" because far more deaths could be prevented, said Dr. Rose Marie Robertson, chief scientific officer of the American Heart Association.

A third of all cancers are related to smoking, and another third are related to obesity, poor diets and lack of exercise — all factors that also contribute to heart disease.

"We want to send the message: Don't smoke, eat right, exercise and maintain normal weight, and see your doctor for normal checkups," Eyre said.

Smoking among adults fell dramatically between 1965 and 2000, from 42 percent to 22 percent. Federal goals are to cut the rate to 12 percent by 2010.

Heart disease sufferers also have benefited from better surgical techniques and devices and from better drugs to treat heart problems and to control factors like high blood pressure, Eyre said.



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The Rundown

STATE

NATION

WORLD

Country singer Possible terrorists U.S. troops launch Morrow arrested headed to Boston more raids in Iraq

AUSTIN (AP) — Country singer Cory Morrow was charged with drug possession and driving while intoxicated after police said they found cocaine in a car he was driving.

Morrow, an Austin resident and favorite with the Texas college crowd, was stopped about 2:20 a.m. Saturday after he did not signal a turn, according to a police affidavit.

The officer reported that Morrow's breath smelled of alcohol and his eyes were bloodshot. Morrow was arrested after failing a field sobriety test, and a plastic bag in the car contained one-third of a gram of cocaine, the affidavit said.

Morrow, 32, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, a felony with a maximum penalty of two years in state jail. He also was charged with driving while intoxicated, a Class B misdemeanor that carries a jail term of up to 180 days.

He was released from jail on \$4,000 bail.

Morrow tour manager Dave Lytle said a statement would be issued Thursday. Lytle did not immediately return a message left by The Associated Press Thursday.

Morrow, a Houston native, has released six albums, including "Songs We Wish We'd Written," a collaboration with friend Pat Green.

BOSTON (AP) — Authorities launched a manhunt across the Northeast for four Chinese nationals and two Iraqis described by the FBI as potential terror suspects who may be heading for Boston.

Authorities insisted that there was no threat.

Federal law enforcement officials said they had received a tip Wednesday about an unspecified threat against Boston and released photographs of the two Chinese men and two women they were seeking. A Transportation Security Administration official said a security briefing indicated the FBI also was looking for two Iraqis.

The governors of Massachusetts and New Hampshire decided to skip President Bush's inauguration Thursday and returned to their states from Washington.

"To assure the people of Boston and Massachusetts that it is safe to be at home, I am going to be sleeping in my bed in Massachusetts tonight, and I feel perfectly safe doing so," said Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"In the very remote circumstance that my attention is needed, I will be able to respond on an immediate basis."

The news of the FBI search quickly ballooned into a frenzy of media reports that the suspects planned a radiological "dirty bomb" attack in Boston. But authorities stressed the sketchiness of the information they received.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. troops launched fresh raids Thursday around the northern city of Mosul to rein in guerrillas who have threatened to disrupt the upcoming election. Iraqi forces sealed off main routes into Baghdad one day after a wave of car bombings rocked the capital.

An Islamic Web site linked to an Iraqi militant group claimed that a Briton and a Swede were kidnapped in the northern town of Beiji and killed after they were found to be intelligence agents. British and Swedish officials were checking the claims.

A Brazilian who disappeared during an ambush Wednesday in Beiji probably was kidnapped, according to his company, the Sao-Paulo-based Constructora Norberto Odebrecht SA, which is working on a power plant in the city.

Troops from the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team detained nine people and seized weapons in the overnight sweeps in Mosul, the military said.

U.S. forces have intensified nighttime operations in Iraq's third-largest city in a race to make it safe enough for voters to cast ballots in the Jan. 30 parliamentary and regional elections. In the past two weeks alone, U.S. and Iraqi forces have rounded up 200 suspected insurgents there, the U.S. military said.

A day after a string of car bombings in Baghdad, major highways leading into the capital from the south and west were sealed off by Iraqi forces.

Coleman's probation increased to 10 years

TULIA (AP) — A judge on Tuesday ordered the former undercover agent in the Tulia drug busts to serve 10 years of probation for an aggravated perjury conviction.

Tom Coleman, whose work in the Tulia drug busts was eventually discredited, was found guilty last week on one charge of aggravated perjury.

A jury in Lubbock on Friday acquitted Coleman of testifying falsely in a 2003 hearing that as a sheriff's deputy he never stole gasoline from county pumps. But Coleman was found guilty of saying that he did not learn about the theft charge against him until August of 1998.

A waiver of arraignment bearing Coleman's signature was dated June 1, 2003, according to evidence from the weeklong trial.

The same jury sentenced Coleman to seven years in prison, but because he did not have any prior felony convictions, jurors recommended that he serve probation.

If Coleman violates terms of his probation, he could be ordered to serve seven years in prison.

Judge David Gleason, who presided at the trial, decided on the 10-year probation term. He also ordered Coleman to make \$7,500 in restitution to Swisher County, Swisher County District clerk Brenda Hudson said.

Breaking news on campus or beyond? Call The UD newsroom (806) 742-3393

The University Daily

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GO TECH!

Program helps students Discover! dream majors

By Meghann Lora/
The University Daily

The Advising Center at Texas Tech is helping students discover who they are and where they fit in today's world.

The advising center has developed a program called Discovery! that aims to assist uncertain, undecided or undeclared students in choosing a major and career path.

Elizabeth Teagan, director of the Advising Center, said most students are not ready to choose a major when they enter college.

"Most people come to college, and they're just not developmentally developed enough to make a decision on a major," she said.

Many students are pressured to choose a major by parents and friends, Teagan said.

This pressure causes students to declare majors and then change, Teagan said. Ninety percent of college students change academic majors at least once during the first year, according to the Advising Center's brochure.

"Often times, the students come and do the major-hopping thing in order to explore majors, and it's a waste of time and money," she said.

The Discovery! program is a three-step process involving a computer test, a small group meeting and one-on-one sessions with an adviser.

Throughout this process, students uncover work values, learning styles and personality types, Teagan said. These factors are used to determine an academic major and career path that fit each student.

"We work with students to develop skill sets and creative thinking," she said.

Having students who are committed to their majors benefits the university, Teagan said. Education becomes more effective and efficient.

"We want our faculty and staff to be working with students who have consciously chosen to be in that major," Teagan said.

Geazul Hernandez is a non-traditional student from Muleshoe majoring in Spanish and French. She said she returned to school last fall and walked in to the Advising Center at Tech mid-semester. She said

she loves everything the advising center has done for her.

"It is honestly, for me, home away from home," she said.

Hernandez said the advising center is a place where anyone can get his questions answered.

"Everybody is great here about trying to answer questions," she said.

Jane Truitt, intake adviser for the Advising Center, has been working as an adviser for almost four years. Truitt said she answers many students' questions.

"I just think we're the answer office for many students," she said.

Truitt said she is available to assist all students who ask for help.

"We help any student at any time from any major," she said.

The number of students the advising center counsels varies but is high during peak advising periods, Truitt said.

"Whenever we are doing add/drop, I had as many as 75 or 80 kids in here," she said.

Pam Klein, a senior sociology major from Hereford, said she was undecided about her major for one year.

Klein said she visited the Advising Center during advising periods while she was undecided. She said the advising center provided guidance in choosing a major. Klein said she was interested in criminology, and the advising center gave her books about forensics to read.

"They probably helped me the most out of all the advisers," she said.

Klein said she is planning to get a minor in photography after she graduates. She said a program such as the Discovery! program would have been helpful for her to find out about her interests and career options.

"That would have been helpful while I was undecided," she said. "I had no clue what I wanted to do."

Teagan said the Advising Center and the Discovery! program serve students in order to improve the quality of education.

"We are definitely a student first office," she said. "We support and serve any community member at Tech."

"They probably helped me the most out of all the advisers."

— PAM KLEIN
Senior Sociology Major from Hereford

FBI stops using Carnivore wiretap software

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has effectively abandoned its custom-built Internet surveillance technology, once known as Carnivore, designed to read e-mails and other online communications among suspected criminals, terrorists and spies, according to bureau oversight reports submitted to Congress.

Instead, the FBI said it has switched to unspecified commercial software to

eavesdrop on computer traffic during such investigations and has increasingly asked Internet providers to conduct wiretaps on targeted customers on the government's behalf, reimbursing companies for their costs.

The FBI performed only eight Internet wiretaps in fiscal 2003 and five in fiscal year 2002; none used the software initially called Carnivore and later renamed the DCS-1000, according to

FBI documents submitted to Senate and House oversight committees. The FBI, which once said Carnivore was "far better" than commercial products, said previously it had used the technology about 25 times between 1998 and 2000.

The FBI said it could not disclose how much it spent to produce the surveillance software it no longer uses, saying part of its budget was classified.

Outside experts said the government probably spent between \$6 million and \$15 million.

The congressional oversight reports were obtained last week under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act by the Washington-based Electronic Privacy Information Center, a civil liberties group that criticized the surveillance software after it was first disclosed in 2000.



Don't ponder too long on what to wear!



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Opinions

Opinions Editor:
Angela Timmons
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GUEST COLUMN

Deciphering the anatomy of the Coleman trial

One of the best things that comes with getting a degree from Texas Tech and moving out into the world is the possibility, at least for those of us leaving the area, of never having life placed in the hands of a West Texas jury. In the trial of Thomas Coleman, 12 Lubbock men and women put together quite possibly the most unfair sentencing recommendations I, or many of the other people in the courtroom gallery, ever have seen.

The media coverage has revolved mostly around the two aggravated perjury charges Coleman faced, and a \$7,000 theft investigation which Coleman's mother already had paid full restitution to resolve.

The real drama in this affair wasn't listed in the state's case against the former undercover narcotics officer. The reason so many people came from great distances to see these proceedings was the fact that in the morning hours of July 23, 1999, the Amarillo Regional Narcotics Task Force served 46 arrest warrants in the small town of Tulia. The next morning's paper read: "Tulia Takes Out its Trash." These warrants were issued based upon the work of one man, Thomas Coleman.

During the previous 18 months, Coleman had been working undercover in Tulia buying cocaine and taking notes, sometimes on his own body, regarding from whom he had purchased the drugs. The juries deciding the drug cases knew all but seven of the 46 warrants were issued for blacks and that every conviction relied on the testimony of Coleman, yet somehow never questioned the validity of his work. As case after case was heard, these people were sentenced to 20, 60, 90 and even 430-year prison terms for distributing cocaine to Coleman.

Nearly four years later, after all the convicted already had served multiple years in prison, Coleman's history of unethical behavior came to light in such a fashion that all of the Tulia convicts were pardoned and released. It seems someone questioned the method of Coleman's undercover work and dug deeper into the man's prior law-enforcement experience.

That is where the information regarding his previous disciplinary history came into play for the legal system. Coleman had been charged with theft in Cochran County on Aug. 7, 1998, and proceeded to lie under oath to a judge in March 2003 that he never had criminal charges levied against him.

It is difficult to ascertain what exactly the theft charges had to do, if anything at all, with the pardon and release of all of the Tulia convictions, but it is easy to relate Coleman's dishonesty then related to the acts of treachery committed on the citizens of Tulia in 1999.

As an interested citizen, I attended the verdict and sentencing phases of the trial to get a sense of what would become of this person who single-handedly had ruined the lives of 46 individuals, the majority of which were less than 30 years old. It was a good day to go, whereas much of the time was spent waiting for the jury to deliberate Coleman's fate, leaving ample opportunity to speak with the released prisoners and their families, who had driven daily from Tulia to see justice served.

There was a feeling in the gallery that Coleman's past was preparing

to deliver a long deserved dose of karmic retribution, especially by the people who had spent years behind bars for crimes that they had never committed.

I heard a story about a woman who had moved from Tulia to Oklahoma in the fall of 1998, months before she allegedly delivered an "eight-ball" of cocaine (less than 2 grams, I am told) to Coleman, for which she received a 99-year sentence. Her sister, who was sentenced to 60 years, was married to one of the white men in the drug busts, who received the 430-year sentence.

Freddy Brookins, a 27-year old Tulia man, testified in the sentencing phase of the trial. He told the court about being pulled out of his home in nothing but a bed sheet at 5 a.m. Coleman, who wore a ski mask in the morning raids to identify the people he had indicted, lifted his mask just long enough to tell Brookins that he better "get a damn good lawyer."

Another woman told me Coleman ran from room to room in her house calling her name, finally realizing that she, who had opened the door for the police, was the one he had claimed sold drugs to him — to which he exclaimed, "You switched up on me." Further inspection of her arrest warrant revealed Coleman had described her as a 5'6" male. She served three years in prison.

Unfortunately, Coleman was not on trial for the bizarre incidents that led to all of these people's living on the taxpayer's dollar year after year. He currently was looking at a third-degree felony, which at the maximum would mean a 10-year prison sentence and a fine of \$15,000. Paltry compared to the served by his col-

terms

As the judge read the jury's sentencing recommendation, most thought the seven year prison sentence, although not nearly long enough in my opinion, would be punishment fitting this convicted liar and manipulator.

But the judge kept reading. He went on to state, "The jury recommends the sentence be suspended pending completion of a probationary period." Faces around the courtroom went blank.

The 10 whites and two Hispanics on the jury panel must have felt sympathy for Coleman to spare him from the same fate to which he condemned so many others. No one I saw shared those feelings, and it was painful to watch Coleman weep his tears of joy.

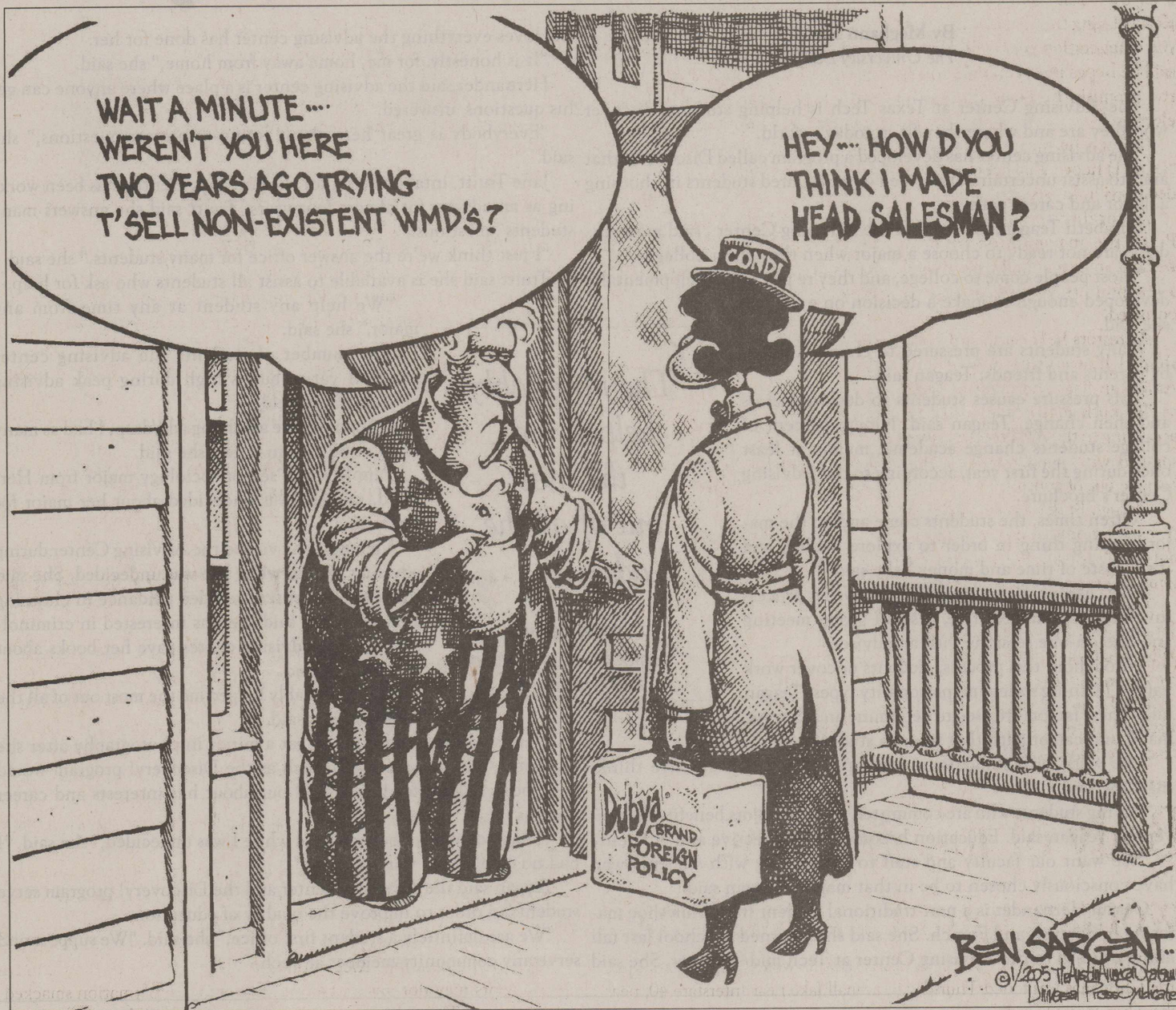
It seems all the lack of understanding and compassion missing in Tulia showed up years later in Lubbock. For this rotten-to-the-core, crooked cop not to serve one minute in prison is a slap in the face to every person.

In the Tulia drug cases, where offenders who committed no offense were punished extensively and were slighted wrongfully, people were sent to prison for years.

A cross-section of the Lubbock community, however, sided with the convicted felon. The system he manipulated to send people to a miserable death in prison granted him another chance.

I wonder how those jurors sleep at night. Surely easier than the people Coleman sent to prison.

—Mark Gordon, senior petroleum land management major from Fort Worth



Question Bush's reasons and answers

Mission accomplished. In nine days, after the Iraqi elections, democracy will be born into a new, free Iraq. Iraq is safer than ever, so all our reasons for going to war are justified, right?

But we did not find the infamous weapons of mass destruction. On Jan. 12, the White House finally called off the search for the weapons.

Therefore, I guess the United States went to war for the wrong reason, and we will admit our mistake. Nope, wrong again. Going to Iraq to free a people from Saddam Hussein was fine, but why weren't Americans given this as the reason from day one?

This was not the reason, because the war never would have happened if that were the case. So many reasons were given, but mainly that Hussein was an eminent threat because he had WMDs.

More than 1,400 of our brave men and women in the military have given their lives for a war with constant change of justification. First, they were sent to fight terror in Afghanistan, then, to find Osama bin Laden "dead or

Lucas Flores



I ask each of us Americans not only to question the constantly changing reason for war but to ask ourselves if we truly can understand the seriousness of a war where thousands of lives are taken and thousands more forever changed.

alive." Then, we went to Iraq. The invasion of Iraq occurred

because Hussein had the means to attack us. Why didn't we find bin Laden, the man who already attacked us? Bin Laden was not only an eminent threat. He'd already attacked.

Jan. 12, President Bush defended his decision to invade Iraq. The decision may have been easier for the American people

to support if it had not been made while soldiers were on the ground in Afghanistan. If bin Laden was caught or killed before the Invasion of Iraq and that job had been finished, Iraq could have had more support.

We could support the decision more now if Bush would not say knowing what he knows now, he still would have gone into Iraq.

I guess we only have to focus on finishing the war in Iraq, getting our troops home and helping the Iraqi people establish society they need. A plan of action will need to be prepared, although it should have been prepared already, to ac-

complish these goals.

I ask each of us Americans not only to question the constantly changing reason for war but to ask ourselves if we truly can understand the seriousness of a war where thousands of lives are taken and thousands more forever changed.

Are we seen as temporary supporters? Can we be against the war temporarily? Will we

be seen as temporary opponents to war? We need to hold our government accountable because its varying justifications for war represent the attitude of the American people.

The American majority blindly accepts the reasons and falls in line so not to be seen as "unpatriotic" or treasonous. It is OK to ask questions. It is also OK to question answers.

■ Flores is a senior journalism major from Anton. E-mail him at lucas.b.flores@ttu.edu.



Find your niche — it's key to fighting college blues

Danger, that's the name of the game. Speeding down a snow packed mountainside with certain doom nipping at your heels. That's what life should be—a domino effect of no cares and freedom your only master.

Ok, so I listened to "Bad to the Bone" before I wrote this. Yet, I recently recalled a bit of wisdom that may help those of you battling the dullsville known as College Blues. That stagnation where you can't seem to find enjoyment, and your classes only drive your boredom further. You can toss your despair away. Bringing something new to life may yet save the day.

The college blues can attack any student during their years of study — leading to classic questions such as "Why am I here?" or "How much longer should I put up with this?" Freshmen can catch the blues from the new stress of the university experience, like longer study hours and tough

Ezra Mann



The college blues can be defeated by using the right tool. Depending on your personality, something is out there for you.

demands from professors. Seniors chomping at the graduation bit want an exit as soon as possible from all the time spent at their major. Before the blues claim more innocents, the cure lies in adding a fresh activity.

Before you toss this column into the motivational speech pile, hear me out. To knock my latest case of the CBs I tried the classic, adrenaline-in-the-snow sport of skiing. At first, my common sense revisited the fact I'm about as coordinated as Bambi on a frozen lake. In fact, during the lessons at Ski Santa Fe, I spent more time trying not to become a human bowling ball than hitting the slopes. However, afterward I felt renewed. The activities took away some of the ickiness I felt about another semester.

The College Blues can be defeated by using the right tool. Depending on your personality, something is out there for you.

Perhaps sweating your blues away offers the best solution. Maybe a good workout routine. If you cannot find time to access the athletic facility at your university, many local gyms offer affordable packages to students. If not gym time, try seeing what outside activities your college offers to find your workout fix.

Of course, not all interests lie with

muscle movement. Reading seems to offer a huge relaxation factor. Single to series novels, magazines, newspapers and even online Web logs are waiting to be discovered.

Eventually, if you look hard enough, you can find something that fits your personality. For the charitable: the soup kitchen, Habitat for Humanity or the Food Bank need assistance. If you dig meeting new people online: message boards, guest books and community Web sites. With all this, the college blues stand little chance of survival.

At last, you can breathe. Your boredom cowers in the corner, because you know your mad skills. Fight the icky feelings and take time out to try a new thing. Whatever you like, whoever you may be, you can find something to fix your woes. Ask around — you will find all you need to beat the college blues.

■ Mann is a junior journalism major from Lubbock. E-mail him at paul.mann@ttu.edu.

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Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification and submission.

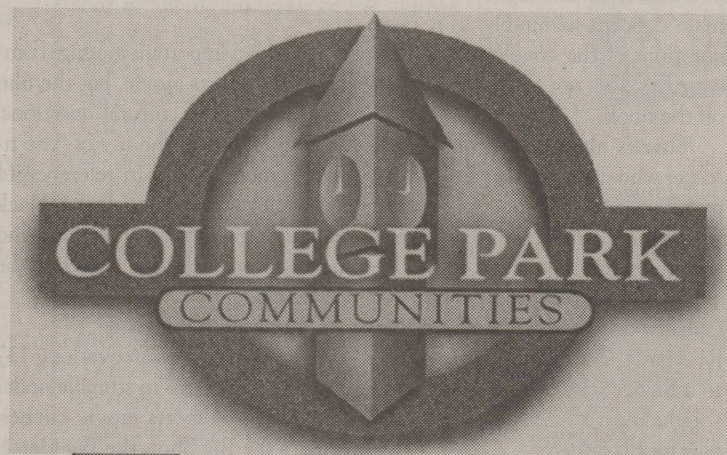
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Lady Raiders host Kansas State in battle of Top 25 powers

By David Wiechmann/
The University Daily

The No. 10 Lady Raiders enter their home game against No. 20 Kansas State Saturday full of confidence after what coach Marsha Sharp said could be her team's biggest win of the season. Fresh off a 65-58 win over Nebraska on the road, Texas Tech looks to stop the preseason conference player of the year in Kendra Wecker and stay undefeated in Big 12 Conference play.

"I think we'll look back on it and say it will be one of our best wins of this conference race, because there are a lot of people that will go in there and not win," Sharp said. "They really play well there; it was the first time they lost a game there this season."

Handing the Cornhuskers their first home loss of the season also gave the Lady Raiders more confidence, something they were not lacking, but the added boost could help Tech in its next two games at home. This boost exists because Sharp said all focus is on her team, and that is what makes winning in the Big 12 tough.

"The pressure's on us," she said. "I think you always have the pressure on you to win at home whenever you face those top teams within your conference. I don't think there's any question you have to protect home court in order to have a chance to win the Big 12."

Not making that pressure any easier will be Wecker, who leads the conference in scoring with 20.5 points a game. She also ranks third in rebounding.

Stopping a player like Wecker could be next to impossible, as she received much preseason publicity and still earns it. Three WNBA scouts are said to be attending the game this weekend, more than likely to take a look at the senior forward.

there will be any stopping her, because she's a great player, but we'll try."

Wecker received praise from Sharp, too. She said no player better is than the conference's leading scorer, and no one brings a more complete package.

"Everything goes through her in the Kansas State offense," she said. "I don't think there's any question in my mind that she's the best player in the Big 12. She can hurt you in so many different ways. She can shoot the 3, she's athletic enough to jump up over you, she can take it to the rim. There's no doubt she's the most complete player in the conference."

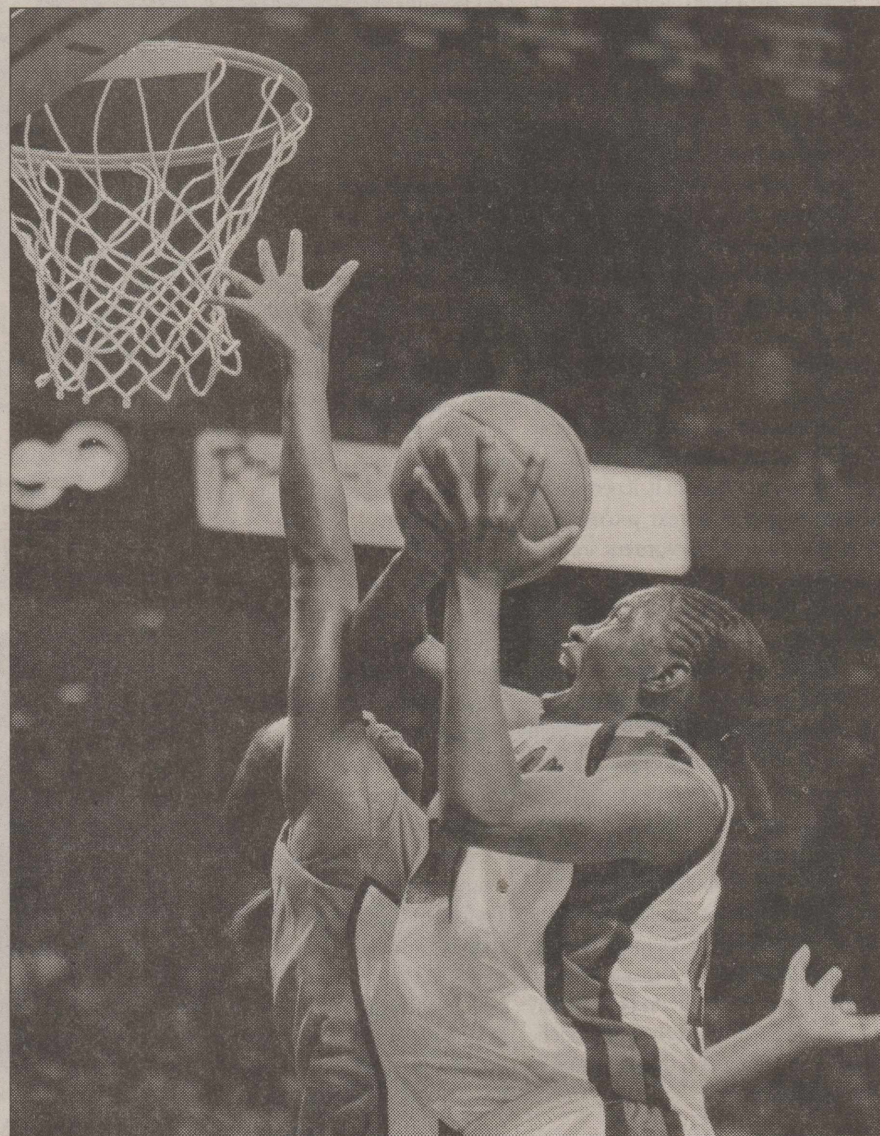
Slowing down Wecker and coming out with a win would keep Tech on top of the Big 12, but the Lady Raiders may be doing some scoreboard watching this weekend as well. No. 4 Baylor travels to No. 15 Texas on Saturday afternoon. Sharp said she sees it as an opportunity for her team to remain undefeated and to gain one more game on one of the two favorites in the league.

"Every time you have an opportunity on the schedule to separate yourself, either a game you win or a chance they have to lose, you want to do that with the people that are close to you (in the standings)," she said. "You need to see opportunities on the schedule where teams will be separated. This weekend, whether that's Baylor or Texas, that game will be important out of her comfort zone. I don't think to us."

Texas Tech Women's Basketball

Point guard Erin Grant said the Lady Raiders will do everything they can to cut down on Wecker's production, but doing so will take a team effort.

"I don't think we'll be able to stop Kendra Wecker completely," she said. "I know whoever is guarding her is gonna try to limit the things she does so well and try to make her do things out of her comfort zone. I don't think



LINC ARMES/The University Daily

LATOYA DAVIS, A forward for the Lady Raiders, goes up for a layup in Tech's win against the Texas Longhorns Jan. 12.

Texas Tech track teams ready for weekend indoor track tournament at ATC

By Anne Gepford/
The University Daily

With their minds and bodies focused on the upcoming weekend, the Texas Tech track and field athletes are intent on overcoming

first-meet nervousness.

The indoor track season opens Jan. 21-22 in Lubbock, and the athletes have been preparing for this season for a year.

Senior Licretia Sibley said she thinks the team focus depends on

the first meet.

"I think getting the first-meet jitters out so we can go on with the season," Sibley said. "My focus is basically getting my race down. In the 600, I'll get stronger through the rest of the year."

Sibley said her focus this weekend is on improvement.

"This weekend, to me, is just a tune-up meet to get ready for every weekend," Sibley said. "I'm almost to where I want to be, but not quite. I'm taking it meet by meet."

Beyond the 600-meter run, Sibley also will be the last leg in the women's 4X400-meter relay.

Sibley said her competition for

this meet does not lie with other teams, however. She and 4X400 relay teammate Shereefa Lloyd

In the men's 4X400 relay, Matt Stewart said he is anticipating the

competition, as the team has been practicing against each other for so long.

"I just want to get out and run the best I can," Stewart said. "I'm just looking forward to competing against other people."

Stewart said the first meet always provides new difficulties.

"I think it's the toughest because we haven't ran in about six months or so," he said. "I think there's always pre-race jitters. Being nervous is good."

The nervousness may translate into something more, as the men's team has another goal in mind beyond improvement.

"We'll hopefully be able to qualify for nationals in the first meet," Stewart said. "I think we're more prepared than we've ever been. We all feel like we're in better shape than we've ever been."

Kyle Atwood, a distance runner for Tech, said the competition

will be good, as the other teams will come looking to compete.

"I think we'll compete really well," Atwood said. "We have a good team this year. Everybody has their own little role." Atwood said the team's focus lies later in the season, despite the fact that this is a big indoor meet for distance runners. He said he hopes to gain confidence with this first meet.

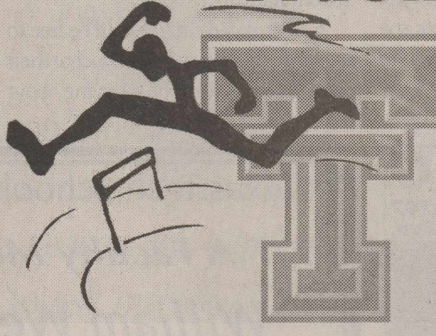
"This is the biggest meet we're going to have up until Arkansas," Atwood said. "Our focus is racing well when it comes down to conference and national time."

The Wes Kitley All-Comers is Friday, while Saturday is the Wes Kitley 5-Way, which features Tech, Baylor, University of Texas El Paso, Florida and the University of Texas San Antonio women's team. Both will be held indoors at the Athletic Training Center on the Tech campus, just south of Jones SBC Stadium.

Stewart said the home meets draw a crowd because of the quality of the team.

"We need all the support we can, especially in these home meets."

Texas Tech Track



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The top 10 sports memories of my life Knight, fans married 'til parking do them part

Recently my sister and I were reminiscing about our days on the soccer field when the entire world could be boiled down to 90 minutes on a grass-covered rectangle.



Heidi Toth

Further reminiscing led to this column — a recap of the very best sports moments of the last almost 23 years.

No. 10. During the 2004 Olympics, when Paul Hamm won the all-around gold for gymnastics. All I saw of the competition was his final event, the high bar, so I missed the rest of the drama that unfolded prior to this. But when he won, I was jumping up and down with glee, despite not caring previous to that moment who won.

them. The second best part was screaming as the anchor for my team crossed the finish line in front. The best part was hearing the Clovis runner swear when I passed her.

No. 6. The Olympic track trials in 2000. This was good not because I enjoyed it, but because the irony is fantastic. 400-runner Michael Johnson and 100-runner Maurice Green had been building this feud between the two for days, staring each other down when they passed, bad-mouthing the other to reporters, all that good stuff. At stake was the claim to the 200-meter-dash, in which each declared he was the fastest. The first time they raced was at the tryouts. Well, 100 meters in, Johnson slows down and stops because of an injury. I yelled at the TV. About 50 meters later, another runner starts pulling back. It's Green! So I never found out who actually was the fastest.

No. 9. In 1998, the last time the Chicago Bulls won the championship, and Michael Jordan sported No. 23. This moment was especially sweet for me because the Bulls were playing the Utah Jazz, for whom my father was cheering. I told him that night screaming at the TV for the first time in family history.

No. 5. The 1996 World Cup. France, the underdog, was pitted against Brazil, the mighty warrior. The game was not even close. France had an easy 3-0 win against the team that previously didn't even consider the French competition.

No. 8. The Texas Tech-UT football game in 2002, the year we beat them. I didn't go to the game, because I figured there wouldn't be any seats, nor did I think I cared that much. Things changed when I realized how close we were. About once every five minutes during the last quarter, I ran over to my neighbor's apartment, whom I had never met before that day, to find out what was happening.

No. 4. The Olympic trials last summer, seeing Jonathan Johnson flashing his Guns Up as he crossed the finish line in first. Seeing him race in Athens was

No. 7. In spring 2000, when my high school relay team beat the team from Clovis, N.M., the fastest team in the state, after four years of just missing

pretty neat, too. Recognizing a face on the track instead of a uniform made the race that much more fun to watch.

No. 3. Every single time I step onto the soccer field. The adrenaline rush, the thrill of scoring, the intensity that accompanies the game — what can I say? It's my drug of choice.

No. 2. The 1999 Women's World Cup. The U.S. team won, after a full-length game, two overtime periods and a shootout. The entire contest was a thing of beauty, although I could have done without the shenanigans after the final score.

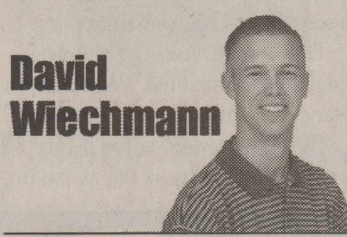
Before I get to the first, let me share the worst sports moment of my life. It was in the 2002 World Cup, the U.S. team had, unexpectedly, gotten to the semifinals. The 6 a.m. game was 0-0 until the final minutes, when Germany's Michael Ballack scored. I cried and stayed in a bad mood for the rest of the weekend.

No. 1. The 2002 World Cup. The feats those boys from the United States pulled off belong in an art gallery somewhere; they were so beautiful. They didn't win it, but for the first time in men's soccer, the United States was a team with which to deal.

And next time around, I'm planning for the 2006 World Cup, when the U.S. team sweeps the tournament, to rank on top of the list. So stay tuned.

Toth is a graduate student from Roswell, N.M., is studying business and is editor in chief of The UD. E-mail her at ud@ttu.edu.

It happens to a lot of people. They meet, they date, they fall in love, they get married. But after a while the luster wears away, and it's just a routine. The honeymoon is over, and the newness is gone.



David Wiechmann

For men's basketball coach Bob Knight, his honeymoon with the fans at Texas Tech is over.

After poor attendance at recent games, Knight was seen Wednesday night on KLBK's newscast saying one of the reasons for the low attendance is the parking situation and construction at the United Spirit Arena.

"We've just gotten one bad story after another from people not being able to find a parking place, being misdirected and many times just not receiving any help whatsoever," Knight told the CBS affiliate.

The funny thing about that is everyone who parks at the arena should be able to find a spot because there is no free parking this season. One thousand spots were taken away thanks to the construction; as a result, only season ticket holders are able to park in the lots at the arena. Non season-ticket holders have to park along Brownfield Highway or at the Health Sciences Center and ride a shuttle for which they previously had to pay.

Knight and Lady Raiders coach Marsha Sharp agreed to pay for the

service themselves the rest of the season to ease the burden for some of the fans having to park farther away from the arena.

The other funny thing about Knight's complaining about poor attendance is Sharp's team had attendance of more than 11,000 at games during the holiday break. The men drew roughly 6,500 each game.

Is the parking situation keeping fans from going to the women's games, too? It doesn't appear so. How can Knight blame poor attendance on parking when fans still come in herds to the women's games? Could it be he is making a plea to fans to "please come to my games?"

His pleas can be seen daily on television in his commercials announcing that "premium lower bowl seats" are available for a number of remaining home games.

The lower attendance could be the love Lubbockites first showed for The General has worn away. Knight is no longer the main attraction, and he finally may have discovered it. West Texas is football and women's basketball territory.

In this and every surrounding

town, people go to watch high school football games of teams for which they don't even have children playing. Attendance at Tech games has broken records every year Mike Leach has been the coach.

So, Knight has to play second fiddle behind football, but he also has to sit one chair down behind women's basketball. Sharp has taken her team to the NCAA Tournament every year since 1992. She won a national title, and every year she produces a team that is considered among the favorites to win the Big 12 Conference. And the Lady Raiders have been ranked No. 2 or 3 in national attendance the last four years.

The honeymoon is over, Knight. You won the fans over for a couple years and you loved them for it. They loved you, too. But the fire has diminished into embers, and you are stuck in this marriage of mediocre affection. You got away with a "spat" with the chancellor in public, of all places. You have gone on profanity-laced tirades on ESPN, and now you are begging fans to come to your games because of poor parking accommodations. The fans are coming, just not to your games.

Wiechmann is a senior journalism major from Lubbock. Reasons for not attending men's basketball games can be sent to david.m.wiechmann@ttu.edu.

Longhorn star deemed academically ineligible, suspended for rest of season

AUSTIN (AP) — Sophomore forward P.J. Tucker, the leading scorer and rebounder for No. 15 Texas, is academically ineligible and will miss the rest of the season, the school announced Thursday.

like I've let a lot of people down, including myself. I'll spend the spring and summer focusing on my academics

so that I can return to the team next fall.

A team spokesman also said starting freshman center LaMarcus Aldridge is still out indefinitely with a hip injury. He missed Texas' win against No. 5 Oklahoma State Monday night.

University officials have refused to comment on details of Tucker's academic problems, citing federal privacy laws that protect student records. Tucker acknowledged that he did not earn enough credit hours to stay eligible.

"I feel for P.J. right now," Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "We hope he can learn a huge lesson from this and come back as a stronger and more mature person. There's no question that his loss will affect our team."

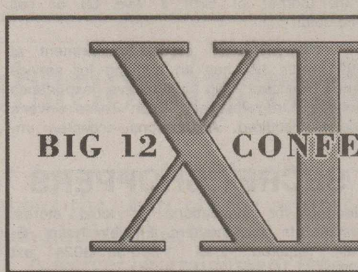
"He feels responsible for it. A prized possession has been taken away from him," Barnes said.

Tucker's loss is a huge blow for the Longhorns. Tucker has been the Longhorns' floor leader this season, bringing an innate toughness and desire to win to a squad infused with freshmen.

"It's hard to understand something like that," said junior forward Brad Buckman. "You don't know what goes through some people's minds. I love the guy so much, it's hard to get down on someone who I feel so strong for. People make mis-

takes. It's just tough when you have to deal with them. You know he never meant for that to happen."

of Tucker and Aldridge should open up more playing time for Dion Dowell and Mike Williams,



two members of the Longhorns' heralded freshman class.

"Somebody will emerge," Barnes said. "We're not going to feel sorry for ourselves, and

Barnes said the Longhorns would continue to fight hard through the rest of the schedule. The absence

nobody else is either. I'm sure there are some people who are licking their chops."

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